

Claims

1. Apparatus for processing foodstuffs with liquid, comprising:
 - a liquid container,
 - 5 - a processing unit for processing the foodstuff,
 - a feed conduit connecting the liquid container to the processing unit via a pump,
 - a return conduit which connects to the feed conduit between the pump and the processing unit and which debouches in the liquid container, and
 - closing means for selectively closing the feed conduit from the pump to the processing
 - 10 unit and the return conduit from the pump to the liquid container,
 - characterised in that the apparatus also comprises supply means to add additives, which supply means connect to the apparatus on the side of the closing means in the feed conduit from the pump to the processing unit directed to the liquid container.
- 15 2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the supply means connect to the apparatus behind a venturi in a conduit.
3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the venturi is provided with a passage opening having variable dimensions.
- 20 4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the venturi is provided with an interchangeable housing incorporating the passage opening.
5. Apparatus as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the
- 25 supply means are provided with dispensing means.
6. Apparatus as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the apparatus is provided with additional mixing means for generating turbulence in the liquid.
- 30 7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the additional mixing means can be coupled releasably to the apparatus.

8. Apparatus as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the return conduit is coupled releasably to the liquid container.

9. Apparatus as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the
5 closing means comprise at least one valve.

10. Apparatus as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the processing unit comprises an injector for injecting the liquid into the foodstuff.

10 11. Method for converting an apparatus for processing foodstuffs with liquid, comprising: a liquid container, a processing unit for the foodstuff, a feed conduit connecting the liquid container to the processing unit via a pump to the processing unit, comprising the operational steps of:

15 A) arranging a return conduit which connects to the liquid transport conduit between the pump and the processing unit and which debouches in the liquid container, and

B) placing closing means in the feed conduit from the pump to the processing unit and in the return conduit from the pump to the liquid container.

20 12. Method for processing foodstuffs with liquid using an apparatus as claimed in any of the claims 1 - 9, comprising the successive processing steps of:

X) mixing liquid and a first additive in a circulating mode of the apparatus, wherein the closing means close the feed conduit from the pump to the processing unit and leave clear the return conduit from the pump to the liquid container, and

25 Y) treating foodstuffs with the liquid in a processing mode of the apparatus, wherein the closing means leave clear the feed conduit from the pump to the processing unit and close the return conduit from the pump to the liquid container.

30 13. Method as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the method also comprises the processing step Z) of: mixing the liquid and a second additive in the circulating mode.